



CITY OF NEW HAVEN
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
54 Meadow Street, 9TH Floor • New Haven, Connecticut 06519



Board of Health Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2021

Present: Dr. James Hadler, Chair; Dr. Frank Mongillo, Dr. Alice Forrester, Dr. Darnell Young

Absent: Heather Reynolds, Gregg Gonsalves

Staff: Maritza Bond, Director of Health

Guest: Sunny Ranna

Call to Order:

Commission Chair Hadler called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Hadler moved to approve the minutes for the September 8th meeting; Dr. Young seconded; minutes were approved with no objections.

Public Comments or Statements:

One member of the community Mr. Sunny Rana attended the meeting to learn about the Board of Health and Health Department updates.

Updates:

Director Bond presented the following status updates:

COVID-19 Situational Awareness & Response Efforts

Current response efforts are mass vaccination, communication efforts, contact tracing, compliance, sustainability, outreach, and technical support in the community.

Most positive Covid-19 cases right now are Delta Variant. There are 34 active cases of students within the district among 20 different schools and three active cases within staff overall. Most Covid-19 cases within

the city are impacting predominantly those that are aged 0 to 9 years old and 30 to 39 years old. There is an overall decrease in the cases 12 cases per hundred thousand at this juncture, and the City is also at substantial risk so there has been a change in category per the CDC recommendations. The Health Department is anticipating to have an update by October 26th in regards to the Pfizer authorization for children ages 5-11.

Department Programs

For Public Health response efforts, the Department is working with community partners to meet specific deliverables and conduct outreach. The Department will continue working with both internal and external key stakeholders to ensure a diverse and comprehensive community response to the Public Health emergency. Medical Reserve Corps are being recruited to support the Departments Covid-19 testing clinic open to city employees on Mondays and Tuesdays. The Health Department is working closely with the Department of Public Health ensuring that reports are being submitted and working on after action reports. Some of the work in the community include developing linguistically and culturally appropriate materials as things are trending. Making sure that fact sheets being created are literacy appropriate. Covid vaccination clinic flyers are distributed in English and Spanish, they are made available in other languages as requested. The Department continues to work with and support Board of Education, before and after school programs, school bus company and daycares around the city to ensure CDC compliance.

A discussion ensued on the importance of Covid-19 safety protocols on school buses and the quarantine protocol in classrooms when a student tests positive for Covid-19. The Department continues to monitor CDC guidelines and recommendations and works with the bus company and Board of Education to ensure safety and compliance.

A question was asked about the city's mask mandate. An analysis was recently completed, Director Bond has sent her recommendations to the Mayor. Overall, the Department is being careful not to end the mask mandate prematurely and then end up back at the high-risk category.

The Health Department is still looking at overdose data while working closely with the CSA department and convening quarterly meetings with long term care facilities. CSA has created a new department for resiliency, the Health Department will support it on the technical side, and they will be providing the direct support.

A live viewing portal for lead case dashboard will be available on the Health Department website. The dashboard is currently being tested before going live.

A GIS Analyst has been hired to help support the Environmental Health Department.

Currently one person is being monitored daily for tuberculosis, there are no latent cases at this time.

Rafael Ramos has officially started as the Environmental Health Program Director. His first week has been focused on onboarding and orientation. The Departments health inspectors continue to do food service inspections and follow up on complaints. Lead cases continue to be closely tracked. Weights and Measures has had an increase of inspections during the month of September.

Grants and Other Key Activities

A discussion ensued on offering Covid-19 booster and flu vaccines at the same time. The Department is working on an education campaign for boosters and flu vaccines as there is not a high demand for both currently. The Health Department does offer to administer both the booster and flu vaccine at the same time.

We are hiring outreach workers for our immunization program as the department has now expanded the program to cover West Haven.

New Hires for the Department of Health include Rafael Ramos, Director of Environmental Health, Allegra Jones, Finance Intern and Morgan Dufour, GIS Analyst. Current Department vacancies are all grant funded except for one position for Assistant Registrar of Vital Statistics which was just approved by the alders.

The Health Department has recently applied for additional grant funding including Ryan White Part A for a continuation of funding. Healthy Homes Production Grant for an expansion to the Departments lead initiative. FQHC look alike application is currently in process. ELC and Per Capita grants have been approved by the Department of Public Health.

The Departments new logo has been finalized and the website is being redone. The departments strategic plan will be released in early November.

Commissioner Chair Hadler moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:24pm.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.**

Attest:

Damaris Velez

Damaris Velez
Office Manager

12/2/2021

Date

Approved:

James Hadler 12/2/21

James Hadler, Chair
Board of Health Commissioners

Date